

Applicant: Morelock
Serial No.: 10/606,975
Filed: 06/24/2003
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IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the following claims as indicated.

1. (Withdrawn) A rudder assembly including a mounting plate mounted to a boat stern pivotally about a vertical axis, a rudder mounted to the mounting plate pivotally about a first horizontal axis movable between a lowered position and raised position, and a tiller attached to the rudder pivotally about a second horizontal axis, the improvement comprising,

the tiller attached to the rudder by a control plate between the tiller and the rudder to which the tiller is rigidly attached and to which the rudder is pivotally attached about the second horizontal axis,

the first horizontal axis above and forward from the second horizontal axis when the rudder is in its lowered position,

an inclined runner on the mounting plate at its top facing generally toward the stern,

a spring biasing the rudder to its lowered position,

a guide on the tiller slidable on the runner, resting at the base of the incline when the rudder is in its lowered position,

whereas the rudder rotates away from its lowered position when its distal end strikes an object or when the tiller pulls the rudder from its lowered position, the rudder pivoting on both first and second horizontal axes raising the second horizontal axis and the control plate relative to the first horizontal

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axis and the mounting plate, therein lifting the tiller, the guide sliding on the runner, the rudder returning to its lowered position under bias of the spring when the rudder passes over said object unless the object causes the rudder to rotate such that the guide is lifted beyond and disengages from the runner, in which case the guide is reset manually to the runner or continued to be rotated by the tiller to its raised position.

2. (Withdrawn) The rudder assembly of claim 1 further comprising a hook on the stern directed away from the rudder to which the tiller is secured in maintaining the rudder in its raised position.
3. (Withdrawn) The rudder assembly of claim 1 in which the tiller further comprises a tubular inner member telescoping from a tubular outer member and further comprising said spring in the outer member biasing the inner member into the outer member, therein urging the rudder to its lowered position.
4. (Withdrawn) The rudder assembly of claim 1 in which the rudder is pivotally connected to the mounting plate on a first rudder pivot pin at the first horizontal axis at the rudder proximal end.
5. (Withdrawn) The rudder assembly of claim 1 in which the control plate includes an interface surface engaging the mounting plate, the mounting plate stopping downward rotation of the control plate at the rudder lowered position.
6. (Withdrawn) The rudder assembly of claim 3 in which

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the rudder is pivotally connected to the mounting plate on a first rudder pivot pin at the first horizontal axis at the rudder proximal end;

the control plate includes an interface surface engaging the mounting plate, the mounting plate stopping downward rotation of the control plate at the rudder lowered position and further includes a shoulder on its upper end over which the interface surface slides when the tiller pulls the control plate, the control plate rotating with the shoulder as a fulcrum of control plate rotation.

7. (currently amended) A catamaran having horizontal left and right hulls connected in parallel, a main sail on a mast, a jib, and a rudder assembly, the improvement comprising,

a main spar releasably horizontally connected centrally between the two hulls, the mast removably attached to thereto at a mast proximal end,

a stern spar releasably connected horizontally between the two hulls at the catamaran astern from the main spar,

a platform between the main spar and the stern spar,

and wherein the rudder assembly comprises a rudder hingedly attached removably to each hull stern with a tiller extending from each rudder toward the rear spar, adapted to move the rudder on a vertical axis in steering the catamaran, and a tiller arm interconnecting the tillers at their distal end such that lateral movement of the tiller arm causes the rudders to move on their vertical axes,

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a bow spar releasably connected horizontally between the two hulls at the catamaran forward from the main spar, three lines, comprising first and second stern lines and a bow line, connected to the mast intermediate its length and spaced apart from the main spar, said first and second stern lines connected between first and second hulls, respectively, sternward of the main spar, and the bow line releasably connected to the bow spar, the lines together securing the mast vertical, perpendicular to the main spar, and with the bow line released from the bow spar the mast lowers from vertical to horizontal, such that during assembly the bow spar supports and pulls the mast from horizontal effectively parallel to the horizontal spars to vertical effectively perpendicular to the horizontal main spar and then connects to the hulls forward of the main spar, the three lines then maintaining the mast vertical until the bow spar is released upon which it lowers the mast under control from vertical to horizontal.

~~stern lines connected between each of the first and second hulls sternward of the main spar and the mast intermediate its length and spaced apart from the main spar, and a bow line connected between the mast intermediate its length and the bow spar such that during catamaran assembly the bow spar pulls the mast attached to the main spar at its proximal end from horizontal to vertical and then connects to the hulls forward of the main spar, the three lines then maintaining the mast~~

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~~vertical until the bow spar is released upon which it lowers the mast under
control from vertical to horizontal.~~

8. (currently amended) A catamaran having horizontal left and right hulls connected in parallel, a main sail on a mast, a jib, and a rudder assembly, the improvement comprising,
- a main spar releasably horizontally connected centrally between the two hulls, the
- mast removably attached to thereto at a mast proximal end,
- a stern spar releasably connected horizontally between the two hulls at the catamaran
- astern from the main spar,
- a platform between the main spar and the stern spar,
- and wherein the rudder assembly comprises a rudder hingedly attached removably to
- each hull stern with a tiller extending from each rudder toward the rear spar,
- adapted to move the rudder on a vertical axis in steering the catamaran, and a
- tiller arm interconnecting the tillers at their distal end such that lateral movement
- of the tiller arm causes the rudders to move on their vertical axes,
- a bow spar releasably connected horizontally between the two hulls at the catamaran
- forward from the main spar,
- ~~The catamaran of claim 7~~ wherein the mast includes a vertical slot opening at the
- mast proximal end and further comprising a cord in a closed loop attaching the
- mast proximal end to the main spar by wrapping a lead portion of the loop from a
- main spar mast side around the main spar and back to the main spar mast side

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passing through a tail portion of the loop and then through the mast slot, the lead portion of the loop being releasably fastened in the mast slot, securing it alongside the main spar.

9. (Previously presented) The catamaran of claim 8 further comprising a ball on the lead portion of the loop larger than the mast slot the fastens the loop lead portion in the slot by passing the lead portion of the loop under the mast and upward into the slot, the loop passing through the slot from the ball on one mast side to the main spar on the opposite mast side, the mast.
10. (Previously presented) The catamaran of claim 7 wherein the platform comprises a trampoline.
11. (currently amended) A catamaran having horizontal left and right hulls connected in parallel, a main sail on a mast, a jib, and a rudder assembly, the improvement comprising,
a main spar releasably horizontally connected centrally between the two hulls, the mast removably attached to thereto at a mast proximal end,
a stern spar releasably connected horizontally between the two hulls at the catamaran astern from the main spar,
a platform between the main spar and the stern spar,
and wherein the rudder assembly comprises a rudder hingedly attached removably to each hull stern with a tiller extending from each rudder toward the rear spar,
adapted to move the rudder on a vertical axis in steering the catamaran, and a